

OCTOBER 12-18, 2003

# Ding Darling Days & National Wildlife Refuge Week



JAY NORWOOD "DING" DARLING

## Jay Norwood “Ding” Darling



Born in Norwood, Michigan, Jay Norwood Darling was to become one of the most well-known men of his era. A nationally syndicated editorial cartoonist who signed his name as “Ding,” he was famous for his witty commentary on many subjects that concerned the nation. In 1924, “Ding” was honored with his first of two Pulitzer Prizes. In 1933, President Franklin Roosevelt appointed Darling as the Director of the U.S. Biological Survey, the forerunner to today’s U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. While director, Darling initiated the Federal Duck Stamp Program, designed the first duck stamp and vastly increased the size of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Darling also designed the blue goose logo for the refuge system. *Ding Darling Days* is a tribute to a hero of conservation and a celebration of what his selfless efforts left for future generations to enjoy.



*In addition to being a cartoonist, Darling was an avid conservationist first.*



**"A Sense of Wonder"**

A story of Rachel Carson



*Award-winning playwright and celebrated actress Kaiulani Lee*

In celebration of Ding Darling Days (October 12–18), OBIE Award-winning playwright and celebrated actress Kaiulani Lee will perform "A Sense of Wonder," a one-woman play based on the life and work of environmental activist and pioneer Rachel Carson, **Thursday, October 16, at 7:00pm** in Schein Auditorium at BIG ARTS. The event, which is being sponsored by the Ding Darling Wildlife Society and BIG ARTS, is

one of the high points of the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge's annual celebration of "Ding" Darling; the national wildlife refuge; and the birds, animals, plants, habitats and ecosystems that the refuge protects. Lee will answer questions from the audience immediately following the performance.

Written by Lee, "A Sense of Wonder" portrays Carson before and directly after the publication of her landmark work, "Silent Spring" (1962), and focuses on Carson's love for the natural world and her fight to defend it. A poet, zoologist and

*Environmental activist and pioneer Rachel Carson*



Erich Hartmann  
Magnum Photos

**Event Highlights**

**Thursday, Oct. 16, 7:00pm  
at BIG ARTS**

biologist, Carson is first portrayed in her summer home in Maine as she is fighting cancer and preparing to leave the state for what she fears is the last time. We then see Carson two months later, in the wake of the publication of "Silent Spring," in which she alerted the world to the dangers of chemical pesticides. She is shown to be battling the chemical industry, the government and the press to get her message out to Congress and the American people.

"What Lee achieves in barely an hour is something rare and almost spiritual: She merges herself with Carson's spirit, fervently voicing both halves of her great message—scientific-aesthetic-emotional testimony to the beauty of the natural world and a prophetic call to its defense," says Christopher Rawson of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

Touring the United States for ten years with productions also in Canada, England and Italy, "A Sense of Wonder" has been presented at more than sixty universities and has been the centerpiece of many national conferences on education, the environment and journalism. It has been performed at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.; for the Albert Schweitzer Conference at the United Nations; for the Sierra Club's centennial; and for the Department of the Interior's 150th anniversary celebration.



**Tickets are \$12 and can be purchased at BIG ARTS by calling 239-395-0900 or at the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge Bookstore. Call 239-472-1100 for ticket information.**

*This special presentation of "A Sense of Wonder" is intended to focus public awareness on the centennial (in 2003) of the founding of the national wildlife refuge system.*

## John Carney

Basics of Wildlife Photography



***Tuesday October 14th,  
9:30am- 2:00pm***

Learn how to take dynamic photographs at America's premier wildlife refuges. In the class, you will learn on your own equipment. Learn about composition and how to frame your shot to make professional quality photographs. After an hour of classroom instruction, head out on Wildlife Drive for a 3-hour photo safari. John Carney has been teaching photography in Michigan for over 20 years, and now runs the Ding Darling Wildlife Society's Photography Contest. The class will start at **9:30am** on **Tuesday, October 14th** at the Ding Darling Education Center. **Tickets are \$25.00** per person; fee will go to the Ding Darling Wildlife Society to support the refuge's environmental education efforts.

### Conservation Movie Night

**Monday, October 13, 7:00pm at  
BIG ARTS**

"Mindwalk" is a 1991 movie described by critics as "a film for passionate thinkers." The setting is the beautiful French island of Mont St. Michel. The film stars Liv Ullmann who, in the company of a presidential candidate and a writer/poet, engages them in a conversation about ecological issues and a vision of a world that lives in harmony with its environment. Showtime for this 112-minute film is **7:00pm** at Schein Hall, BIG ARTS. **Tickets are \$4.50**, which includes a movie and discussion, and a cheese and wine reception to follow.

### Conservation Concert

**Monday, October 13, 3:00-4:00pm  
at BIG ARTS**

J.P. Taylor is a singer-songwriter and an environmentalist, but a teacher first. He grew up loving animals and nature, and communicates that appreciation and compassion for the world around us through his teaching and his songs. He lives and teaches in Lee County Florida and loves to write music to use in his the classroom. J.P. Taylor will be kicking off Ding Darling Days on **Monday, October 13th** with a children's afternoon concert held at BIG ARTS.



## Stuart B. McIver

*Death in the Everglades*

*Stuart B. McIver, author of  
"Death in the Everglades,"  
will be speaking and  
autographing his book on  
Wednesday, October 15th  
at 1:00pm.*



"Death in the Everglades" chronicles the demise of one of 20th-century Florida's most enduring folk heroes. The murder of Guy Bradley represents a milestone not only in the saga of the Everglades, but also in the broader history of American environmentalism. This fascinating biography of his abbreviated but eventful life is emblematic of the struggle to tame the Florida frontier without destroying it. As Stuart McIver unfolds the story behind this famous but little-known crime, he also provides a window into Florida history during the creation of modern South Florida.

Stuart B. McIver is the author of 13 books on Florida, nearly 500 magazine articles, and is the writer and producer of numerous documentary films – "Alligator" won the Venice Film Festival Silver Medal. Both "Alligator" and "Marisa and the Mermaid" won the CINE Golden Eagle award for documentary films.



## Tours and Programs



## Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge

### *Advanced Bird-Watching Tour*

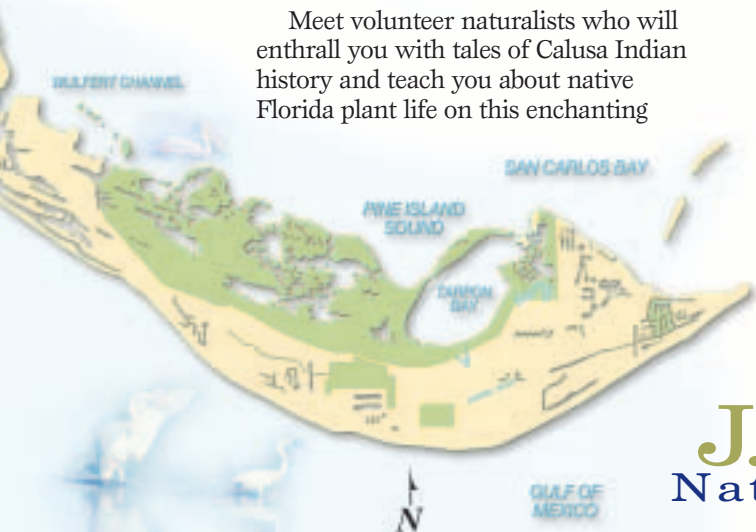
Designed for the more serious bird-watcher, this 1.5- to 2-hour tour focuses on bird identification and behavior. A volunteer naturalist will lead a car caravan out along the Wildlife Drive and stop at various places to observe the bird life. The tour leaves from the flagpole in front of the Education Center at **8:00am on Tue. & Thur.** \$5 per vehicle entrance fee.

### *Birds of the Estuary Tour*

Meet a volunteer naturalist for a special tour along Wildlife Drive. This 1.5- to 2-hour car caravan tour takes you through some of the most popular birding locations on the Refuge. Highlighting the many fascinating natural wonders of this unique mangrove ecosystem, the naturalists give you an overview of all facets of the Refuge. This tour leaves from the flagpole in front of the Education Center at **9:30am Mon.-Thur.** \$5 per vehicle entrance fee.

### *Shell Mound Trail Tour*

Meet volunteer naturalists who will enthrall you with tales of Calusa Indian history and teach you about native Florida plant life on this enchanting



boardwalk trail. Meet at the Shell Mound Trail near the end of Wildlife Drive at **11:00am on Wednesday.** \$5 per vehicle entrance fee.

### *Refuge Bike Tour*

Bike enthusiasts, bring your own bicycle and join this 1.5- to 2-hour tour around the 4-mile Wildlife Drive/Indigo Trail loop with a volunteer naturalist. Wildlife Drive is a paved surface, while the Indigo Trail is a hard-packed gravel trail, so the tour is suitable for people of all riding abilities. You will learn about the bird life and ecology of the Refuge. This tour will leave from the flagpole in front of the Education Center at **10:00am on Monday.** \$1 per bicycle entrance fee. Children 15 and under are admitted free.

### *Calusa Indian talk by John Worth*

Archaeologist/Ethno-historian John E. Worth will be giving a presentation on the history of Southwest Florida's native people, the Calusa Indians. Dr. Worth manages and coordinates the Randall Research Center public programs - both research and education. The center is operated by the Florida Museum of Natural History and is located on Pineland. The Randall Research Center is dedicated to a historical-ecology approach that encourages stewardship of Florida's cultural and natural heritage. Join us **Thursday at 11:00am** in the Ding Darling Education Center.



### *Everglades Restoration Talk*

It is believed that the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, also known as CERP, is the largest ecosystem restoration in the world. CERP is a partnership between the federal and state governments to restore a more natural water flow regime through the Everglades. This presentation will update you on the current progress of CERP, with a focus on the projects that affect Southwest Florida. Stephanie Brady, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biologist works exclusively on Southwest Florida issues and is dedicated to the betterment of the Caloosahatchee Estuary. Stephanie will give a presentation on CERP and projects that are specific to southwest Florida on **Tuesday, Oct 14th** in the Ding Darling Education Center at **1:00pm.**

## Tours and Programs



## Tarpon Bay Explorers

### *Tarpon Bay Kayak Tour*

Get ready for a truly unique experience. Paddle through the mangrove tunnels on the Commodore Creek Canoe Trail. With a naturalist/marine biologist by your side, you'll spot wildlife and learn about the back water ecosystem. **10:30am Sun.-Sat. \$15 Adults; \$7.50 Kids. Call 239-472-8900 for reservations.**

### *Tarpon Bay Nature and Sealife Cruise*

Join us for a close-up look at our wildlife while cruising the tranquil waters of Tarpon Bay. We'll observe the Rookery Islands, home of pelicans, egrets, herons and ibis. You may see dolphins and manatees, and during an interactive presentation at our aquarium and touch tank, you will discover first-hand what lies beneath the surface. **2:30pm Sun.-Sat. \$10 Adults; \$7.50 Kids. Call 239-472-8900 for reservations.**



## Captiva Kayak

### *Buck Key Kayak Tours*

Join Captiva Kayak Co. & Wildside Adventures for two hours, and explore the back waters of Captiva. We will depart from our waterfront location at the mouth of Roosevelt Channel, and at a leisurely pace we will glide over the seagrasses while discussing the ecology of this mangrove estuary and the fascinating history that surrounds this area. Our journey will lead us to a canopied water trail that winds through the pristine mangrove forest of Buck Key. Upon our return we will paddle near the historic stilt house built for the Darlings. Be sure to bring camera, binoculars and a sense of adventure!!! Weather permitting: **9:00am Sun.- Tues.; 1:30pm Wed.-Sat. Call 239-395-2925 for reservations.**

## Captiva Cruises

### *Captiva Cruises Historical Tour*

Join Captiva Cruises on a historical pontoon boat tour of Roosevelt Channel and Buck Key. See "Ding" Darling's house. Gain a unique perspective of the Island's rich conservation heritage. Learn about the natural environment while relaxing on this 1.5-hour tour. **4:00pm Mon.- Fri. Call 239-472-5300 for reservations.**





## Tours and Programs

### Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation

*In celebration of Ding Darling Week, we will offer free entrance to our exhibit area and trails on Friday, Oct. 17. Call 239-472-2329 for details on SCCF's programs.*

#### Tools for the Resource Manager

Join us at the SCCF Nature Center for the interactive discussion on prescribed burns, invasive plant management and biological sampling gear.

**11:00am on Friday**

#### Sea Turtles

*Sea Turtles* will cover the history of monitoring loggerhead sea (not see) turtle nests on Sanibel and Captiva as well as offer information on the current year's activity. **11:00am on Friday** at the SCCF Nature Center

#### Guided trail walks at SCCF

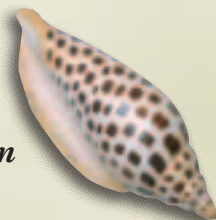
Guided trail walks **Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday** (\$3.00, free on Fri.) at **9:00am**. We have a Shoreline Discovery Walk on **Thursday at 9:00am** which begins at SCCF's Nature Center.



#### Tour de Preserves

Join a naturalist for a bike tour of the conservation lands on Sanibel. The tour will begin at **9:00am on Wednesday**, October 15 at SCCF's Nature Center. Reservations are required, and we will charge \$10 to cover the cost of lunch. Proceeds go to environmental education. Participants need to have a bike, helmet and water bottle. **Call 472-2329 for reservations.**

### Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum



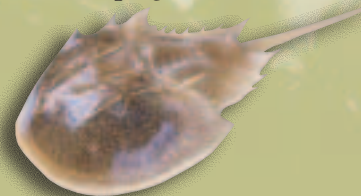
*Special program at 2:00pm on Thursday, October 16*

#### Southwest Florida Shells

The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum has been conducting an inventory of the local species of shallow-water mollusks. The well-illustrated program describes the shells found around Southwest Florida. The work of the Museum will allow the public to identify shells on a new web site ([www.shellmuseum.org/sanibel\\_shells.html](http://www.shellmuseum.org/sanibel_shells.html)) that currently includes images of 150 local species (of an estimated total of about 300), and a field guide to be published in the near future. Learn more about the program.

#### General Admission

**\$5 Adults;  
\$3 Children  
between 7-18;  
free for Children  
under 7.**



## Live Wildlife Shows



David Hitzig of the  
Busch Wildlife  
Sanctuary

### *Live wildlife shows by David Hitzig of the Busch Wildlife Sanctuary on Saturday, October 18th*

David Hitzig is the director at the Busch Wildlife Sanctuary in Jupiter, FL. The Busch Wildlife Sanctuary is a nonprofit, educational-based, injured wildlife care facility, dedicated to bringing wildlife and people together to develop community awareness of the value and diversity of Florida's natural resources.

The Busch Wildlife Sanctuary is proud to care for thousands of wild animals each year and offers community outreach programs to over 50,000 people annually. Live, non-releaseable wild animals play an important role in the Sanctuary's educational presentations. These

animals offer the public a rare opportunity to learn from nature up-close and help to create a memorable message of respect for all living creatures and their habitats. David will be giving 3 free, LIVE wildlife shows outdoors on the refuge on **Saturday,**

**October 18th.** The topics of his presentations are Reptiles, Birds of Prey and Florida's Backyard Wildlife.



## Saturday Family Fun

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 9:00am  | Duck Stamp Artist Ron Louque and Vaughn Collins, Chief of the Duck Stamp Office.                           |
| 10:00am | "The National Wildlife Refuge System" presented by author Eric Dolen and photographer Karen Hollingsworth. |
| 11:00am | Live wildlife show by David Hitzig (Florida's Reptiles)  |
| 11:45am | Live Bat show by the Florida Bat Center  |
| 12:30pm | Live wildlife show by David Hitzig (Florida's Birds of Prey)   |
| 1:15pm  | Biography of "Ding" by Kristie Anders  |
| 2:15pm  | Live wildlife show by David Hitzig (Florida's Backyard Wildlife)   |

*Free Tram Rides all Day 9:00am – 3:00pm provided by Tarpon Bay Explorers.*

*Learn more about local environmental organizations at the Exhibit Fair.*

### **Live Bat Show**

George and Cindi Marks, from the Florida Bat Center, will speak about the only flying mammal. The Florida Bat Center is a private nonprofit organization established for the purpose of protecting and preserving native Florida bats. The Center provides outreach educational programs for schools and speakers for local environmental and civic organizations. The Florida Bat Center works with wildlife rehabilitators throughout Florida so injured or orphaned bats can be cared for around the state. They also perform non-invasive research and surveys on the bats of Florida. George and Cindi, along with LIVE bats, will talk about the role of bats in the Florida environment and conservation of these beneficial animals.



### **Duck Stamp Artist**

2003 Duck Stamp Artist Ron Louque will be on hand to speak and sign prints and duck stamps.





## *Sponsors*

**Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation**

**Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum**

**Captiva Cruises**

**Captiva Kayak**

**Tarpon Bay Explorers**

**BIG ARTS**

**Ding Darling Wildlife Society**

**West Wind Inn**

Ding Darling Days and  
National Wildlife Refuge Week  
will be held October 12th thru  
October 18th, 2003.